

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somer (US 6,052,362).

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Related Art in view of Somer.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indication that claims 1-9 are allowed, and that claims 12, 13 17, 18, and 20 contain allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amend claims 12 and 17-20, and canceled claims 10, 11 and 14-16. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 12, 13, and 17-20 are pending for further consideration.

All Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the recited feature of “wherein the step of writing the test data packet to the U-turn node by the receiving bus master include the steps of” is indefinite because “[i]t is not clear which of the 2 steps of writing the test data packet to the U-turn node (2nd or 4th) of claim 16 is being referenced.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the allegedly indefinite preamble of claim 19 is verbatim from claim 16. For example, independent claim 16, now canceled and incorporated into claim 19, recites multiple “writing” steps. However, only a single recited *writing* step includes the specific features of “writing the test data packet to the U-turn node by the receiving bus master.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19, as amended to include the features of canceled claim 16, is definite since the recited feature of “wherein the step of writing the test data packet to the U-turn node by the receiving bus master” makes direct reference to the step of “writing the test data packet to the U-turn node by the receiving bus master,” as recited at line 11 of claim 19.

Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 19, as presently amended, complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somer (US 6,052,362), and claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Related Art in view of Somer.

Without acquiescing to the Office Action's position that claims 10, 14, and 16 are obvious in view of Somer and Applicant's Admitted Related Art, Applicant has canceled claims 10, 14, and 16, and incorporated the features of claims 10 and 16 into objected-to claims 12 and 17-20, respectfully, in order to advance prosecution and place the application in clear condition for allowance.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the above rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 10, 14, and 16, and by the amendments to claims 12 and 17-20, and that claim 19 is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to indefiniteness.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments, reconsideration, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 22, 2004

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